

CHAPTER 81 EVALUATE FOREIGN-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT OPERATED BY FAR PART 121/135.411(A)(2) OPERATORS

Section 1 Background

1. PTRS ACTIVITY CODES

A. *Maintenance:* 3337

B. *Avionics:* 5337

3. OBJECTIVE. This chapter provides guidance for ensuring that foreign-registered aircraft, intended for use by U.S. air carriers, meet FAR Part 121 and 135 (10 or more) requirements.

5. GENERAL. A U.S. air carrier may operate a foreign-registered civil aircraft in common carriage and for carriage of mail. An aircraft must be leased or chartered without crew. The country of aircraft registry must be a member country of the convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

7. FOREIGN AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATES

A. The airworthiness requirements of foreign countries differ from U.S. requirements. Aircraft changes may have to be made before a U.S. operator can use a foreign aircraft. Such changes may invalidate the certificate. In such cases, an exemption may be required from the foreign airworthiness authority.

B. To maintain the validity of the foreign airworthiness certificate, the U.S. operator may have to perform more extensive inspections or tests than those required by its FAA-approved continuous airworthiness maintenance program and/or the Federal Aviation Regulations.

9. DIFFERENCES AND/OR EXCEPTIONS OF MAINTENANCE TASKS. The following maintenance tasks may be different from the foreign operator's maintenance program and will be exceptions to the foreign program. These exceptions shall be performed according to the certificate holder's maintenance program. Examples of differences are as follows:

- Inspection/maintenance of required emergency equipment
- Inspection/maintenance of encoding altimeters and transponders
- Inspection/maintenance of fire extinguishers, air and oxygen bottles, and hydrostatic tests and life limits. These tasks shall be accomplished according to 49 CFR Part 173.

NOTE: These differences and/or exceptions must be evaluated to ensure that the requirements to keep the foreign certificate of airworthiness current are retained.

Section 2 Procedures

1. PREREQUISITES AND COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS

A. *Prerequisites*

- Knowledge of the regulatory requirements of FAR Parts 121 and 135, as applicable
- Successful completion of Airworthiness Inspector's Indoctrination Course for

General Aviation and Air Carrier Inspections, or previous equivalent

B. *Coordination.* This task requires coordination between the Principal Airworthiness Inspectors, the operator, and the regional flight standards division.

3. REFERENCES, FORMS, AND JOB AIDS

A. *References*

- FAR Parts 45 and 129

B. *Forms*

- FAA Form 8400.8, Operations Specifications

C. *Job Aids*

- Automated operations specifications checklists and worksheets

5. PROCEDURES

A. *Inspect the Airworthiness Certificate.* Ensure that the certificate was issued by the country of registry and meets the registration and identification requirements of that country.

B. *Inspect the Aircraft.* Ensure that:

(1) The aircraft meets the requirements for issuance of a U.S. standard airworthiness certificate

(2) The aircraft conforms to its type design approved under a U.S. type certificate

(3) The aircraft complies with applicable maintenance, operating, and equipment rules

(4) The aircraft complies with U.S. Airworthiness Directives

(5) The aircraft complies with life-limited parts requirements

(6) The aircraft complies with the noise, fuel venting, and engine emission requirements of SFAR §§ 36.1(d) and 36.7. Any further noise and/or emission

requirements adopted or amended by the FAA for U.S.-registered aircraft applies equally to foreign-registered aircraft.

C. *Evaluate the Foreign Maintenance Program, if Adopted*

(1) Ensure that the program meets levels of safety that are equivalent to the certificate holder's existing program. If the certificate holder does not have a program for the aircraft listed, the lessor's foreign program must be submitted to the FAA and be justified as an acceptable initial maintenance program. (See operations specifications paragraph D87.)

(2) List all program differences and exemptions on the operations specifications supplemental paragraph D87-1.

D. *Ensure that the Certificate Holder has Filed a Lease or Charter Agreement with the FAA.* This agreement must be sent to the FAA Aircraft Registry at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It must satisfy the foreign country's requirements, including any special documentation required by that country to be carried on the aircraft.

7. TASK OUTCOMES

A. *File PTRS Transmittal Form*

B. *Completion of this task will result in one of the following:*

- Approval of the operations specifications
- A letter to the operator listing the reasons for rejection

C. *Document Task.* File all supporting paperwork in the operator's office file.

9. FUTURE ACTIVITIES. Normal surveillance.